

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 AGRE-00 CEA-01 CIAE-00
COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 FRB-03 H-01 INR-10 INT-05
L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 CTME-00 AID-05
SS-15 STR-07 ITC-01 TRSE-00 ICA-11 SP-02 SOE-02
OMB-01 DOE-15 OIC-02 JUSE-00 /127 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/IAI:GDKULICK:DEF
APPROVED BY NEA:NAVELIOTES
EB/OT/GCP:SLYNN
IO/UNP:RHARE
STR:TSTEWART
NEA/IAI:WBSMITHII
-----022566 050222Z /61
P 050036Z MAY 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652,GDS

TAGS: ETRD, GATT, IS

SUBJECT: GATT AND THE ISLAMIC CONFERENCE

REF: A. TEL AVIV 4744, B. GENEVA 5074, C. GENEVA 4524

1. DEPARTMENT SHARES MISSION'S BELIEF THAT ACTIVE EFFORT TO
BLOCK GRANTING OF OBSERVER STATUS TO ISLAMIC CONFERENCE IS
LIKELY TO INTRODUCE GREATER DEGREE OF POLITICIZATION TO GATT
THAN WOULD QUIET ACQUIESCENCE IN GRANTING OF SUCH STATUS.
FURTHERMORE, IN LIGHT OF FACT THAT 13 OTHER ORGANIZATIONS,
CONSPICUOUSLY INCLUDING LEAGUE OF ARAB STATES (OF WHICH PLO
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IS FULL MEMBER), HAVE ALREADY BEEN GRANTED OBSERVER STATUS
AT C.P. SESSIONS, IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO OPPOSE GRANTING
SUCH STATUS TO ISLAMIC CONFERENCE ON SUBSTANTIVE GROUNDS.

2. FOR GENEVA: PLEASE GET IN TOUCH WITH HEAD OF ISRAELI
DELEGATION AND MAKE THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

A. IN VIEW OF FACT THAT 13 INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS, INCLUDING ARAB LEAGUE (OF WHICH PLO IS FULL MEMBER), HAVE ALREADY BEEN GRANTED OBSERVER STATUS AT GATT C.P. SESSIONS, WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT WE HAVE SOLID SUBSTANTIVE GROUNDS ON WHICH TO OPPOSE GRANTING OF SIMILAR STATUS TO ISLAMIC CONFERENCE.

B. WHILE IT MIGHT BE THEORETICALLY POSSIBLE TO BLOCK SUCH STATUS BY PREVENTING CONSENSUS ON POLITICAL GROUNDS, WE BELIEVE SUCH EFFORT WOULD DO FAR MORE TO POLITICIZE GATT THAN QUIET ACQUIESCENCE IN ISLAMIC CONFERENCE OBSERVERSHIP. IT IS OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT OBSERVERS TRADITIONALLY DO NOT MAKE STATEMENTS AND ARE INVITED TO DO SO ONLY WHEN ISSUE UNDER CONSIDERATION DIRECTLY AFFECTS THEM. ARAB LEAGUE, WHICH IS MUCH MORE DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN ARAB/ISRAELI DISPUTE, HAS NOT, TO OUR KNOWLEDGE, ATTEMPTED TO INTRODUCE THIS ISSUE INTO GATT, AND CONTRACTING PARTIES WOULD ALMOST CERTAINLY ACT TO PREVENT ANY SUCH EFFORT BY ISLAMIC CONFERENCE.

C. WE THEREFORE INTEND TO ADVISE SECRETARIAT THAT WHILE (ALL OTHER THINGS BEING EQUAL), WE DO NOT SEE PARTICULARLY USEFUL PURPOSE SERVED BY GRANTING OBSERVERSHIP TO ISLAMIC CONFERENCE, WE BELIEVE EFFORT TO BLOCK THEIR BID WOULD DO MORE HARM THAN GOOD.

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3. YOU SHOULD ALSO PASS ON ABOVE TO SECRETARIAT.

4. FOR TEL AVIV: TALKING POINTS IN PARAGRAPH TWO SHOULD BE USED IN EXPLAINING OUR DECISION TO FOREIGN MINISTRY. DEPARTMENT WILL USE SAME POINTS IN DEALING WITH ISRAELI EMBASSY, WHICH HAS BEEN ACTIVELY FOLLOWING THE MATTER HERE. CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Remarks:
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ISecure: 1
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Litigation History:
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